

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the final Office Action dated January 16, 2007 and the Advisory Action dated April 27, 2007. In response to the final Office Action, Applicant had filed a Response to Final Office Action on April 4, 2007, which included proposed amendments to claim 129 to correct a minor informality. The Office refused to enter the proposed amendments, asserting that “[t]hey are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal.” See Advisory Action, item 3.

This Amendment fully responds to the January 16, 2007 final Office Action, and, therefore, Applicant respectfully requests non-entry of the proposed claim amendment of the April 4, 2007 Response.

Claims 110-137 are pending in this application, with claims 110 and 129 being independent. By this Amendment, claims 110, 111, 115, 123, 124, 126, 127, 129, 131, 135, and 137 are amended to more clearly define the subject matter recited in those claims.

As an initial matter, Applicant takes this opportunity to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicant’s representative during the personal interview held on May 11, 2007. At the interview, various rejections outstanding in the January 16, 2007 final Office Action were discussed. The following remarks reflect the subject matter discussed during the interview.

In the final Office Action, all of the pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) or 103 based on U.S. Patent No. 5,897,562 to Bolanos et al. alone or in

combination with one or more of: U.S. Patent No. 5,403,326 to Harrison et al.; U.S. Patent No. 5,562,701 to Huitema et al.; and U.S. Patent No. 5,797,960 to Stevens et al.

Without necessarily agreeing to these rejections, Applicant has amended each of independent claims 110 and 129, among other claims, to more clearly define the subject matter recited in those claims. As agreed upon during the interview, these claims, as amended, define novel and non-obvious subject matter over the cited references.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of all of the outstanding rejections, and allowance of all pending claims.

The final Office Action and the Advisory Action contain a number of statements and characterizations regarding the claims and the related art. Applicant declines to necessarily subscribe to any statement or characterization in them, regardless of whether it is addressed above.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned (202-408-4140) if a telephone conversation might advance prosecution of the application.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: June 15, 2007

By: _____


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